

GIANCANA, Sam
Mafia
Castro, Fidel

Ganglord Giancana

Shot to Death

LINKED TO CASTRO PLOTS IN CIA PROBE

OAK PARK, ILL. (AP) — Sam Giancana, a reputed leader in the Chicago crime syndicate recently linked to alleged CIA plots to kill Cuban Premier Fidel Castro, was found slain in his home shortly before midnight.

Giancana, 65, had been shot once in the right corner of the mouth and five times in the neck, Oak Park Police Chief Wilbur Reichert said last night. No weapon was found.

Caretaker Joseph DiPersio, 82, discovered the body lying face up on the kitchen floor in the basement of Giancana's home in this western Chicago suburb, Reichert said.

DiPersio and his wife had been watching television in a second floor room of the house, but they said they heard no shots, possibly because

their air conditioner was running, the chief said.

DIPERSIO TOLD POLICE he last saw Giancana alive at 10:30 p.m. Police received the homicide call at 11:51 p.m.

Giancana was wearing a sport shirt, slacks and a pair of slippers when his body was found.

The FBI joined local police in investigating the shooting.

Giancana, a dapper, outgoing figure in earlier years with a bent for silk suits and night clubs, was arrested in connection with a number of gangland killings in the late 1950s

and early 1960s, but he was never convicted. In the mid-1960s, he was jailed for a year for refusing to answer a grand jury's questions about organized crime.

For several years, Giancana kept company with singer Phyllis McGuire. They had met in Las Vegas in 1961.

He reportedly worked his way up through the ranks of the Chicago crime syndicate built by Al Capone.

SOMETHING of a recluse in recent years, Giancana, a widower, had spent much of his time on the golf course and at his Oak Park home.

He and another underworld figure, John Roselli, were involved in CIA contingency plans to assassinate Castro in the early 1960s, according to recent statements by Richard Bissell, who headed the CIA's "dirty tricks" department during the 1961 Bay of Pigs invasion.

Giancana held extensive gambling interests in Cuba before Castro overthrew dictator Fulgencio Batista in 1959.

Then-Atty. Gen. Robert F. Kennedy later learned that Giancana and Roselli might have been involved in a CIA plot to kill Castro, a CIA source said last month.

"Mr. Kennedy said, 'The next time you deal with the Mafia, come to me first,' but he didn't voice any other objection," said the source, who once held a high post in the CIA.

In 1965, Giancana drew his one-year jail term for refusing to answer questions before a federal grand jury the previous year.

When he was released, U.S. Atty. Edward V. Haurahan wanted to call a new grand jury and jail him again if he refused to answer questions, but Justice Department officials ordered the Chicago prosecutor to drop the

the Justice Department not pursuing the case. said Giancana should have been indicted for obstruction of justice or criminal contempt.

William Hundley, then headed the department's organized crime division, has said he had knowledge of Giancana's CIA connection at the time. Hundley said the case was dropped so it would not look like the department was harassing the reputed mobster.

At a wedding reception in 1959, Giancana made a statement to a reporter about his affairs.

"WHAT'S WRONG with the syndicate?" he asked. "Two or three of us get together on some deal and everybody says it is a bad thing. But those businessmen do it all the time and nobody squawks."

A Selective Service official asked Giancana during World War II what he was doing for a living.

"I steal," Giancana replied.

The draft board labeled Giancana a "constitutional psychopath with inadequate personality manifested strong antisocial trend" and classified him as "5F" and sent him home.

"They thought I was crazy," Giancana said years later. "But I was telling the truth."

Giancana, a grade school dropout at 14, reportedly had an income of more than a million dollars a year.

Judge William J. Campbell, chief judge of the U.S. District Court at Chicago in the early 1960s, criticized